

A' 1 2. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the information  
2 comprises receiving the information from a client system.

A2 1 6. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein partitioning the data for  
2 storage in the database system comprises dividing the data into buckets containing related  
3 data.

A3 1 11. (Amended) A system, comprising:  
2 a database;  
3 a network interface;  
4 plural storage modules and data servers;  
5 a database controller coupled to the database, wherein the database  
6 controller is adapted to receive partitioning information and perform a partitioning task  
7 on data received through the network interface based on the partitioning information to  
8 partition the data into plural groups,  
9 the database controller adapted to further store the plural groups of the  
10 data partitioned by the partitioning task into plural storage modules associated with  
11 corresponding plural data servers,  
12 the database controller adapted to select, in response to a database query,  
13 less than all the plural data servers based on the partitioning information to reduce a  
14 number of data servers involved in processing the database query.

1 12. (Amended) The system of claim 11, wherein the database is part of a  
2 parallel database system.

1 14. (Amended) The system of claim 11, wherein the database controller  
2 comprises:  
3 a query coordinator coupled to the network interface, the query  
4 coordinator to receive the database query from the network interface;  
5 a partitioner to partition data and perform selecting of less than all the  
6 plural data servers; and  
7 a partitioner data storage coupled to the partitioner, the partitioner data  
8 storage to store the partitioning information associated with at least one characteristic of  
9 the data to enable the partitioner to partition data.

1 15. (Amended) The system of claim 14, wherein the partitioner is capable of  
2 executing an algorithm, based on the stored partitioning information, for partitioning the  
3 data.

1 16. (Amended) The system of claim 15, wherein the plural data servers are  
2 adapted to store and access partitioned data in the database.

1 18. (Amended) The system of claim 17, wherein the client system is adapted  
2 to further send the partitioning information to be used by the database controller to  
3 partition the data.

A5  
1 19. (Amended) An article comprising one or more storage media containing  
2 instructions that when executed cause a device to:  
3 receive information associated with at least one characteristic of data to be  
4 stored into a database system from a remote device;  
5 partition the data for storage in the database system based on the  
6 characteristic of the data;  
7 store the partitioned data in the database system in plural storage modules  
8 associated with plural data servers; and  
9 in response to a database query, select less than all the data servers based  
10 on the information to reduce a number of data servers involved in processing the database  
11 query.

Add the following claims:

A6  
1 22. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the information  
2 comprises receiving organizational information, and wherein selecting less than all the  
3 plural data servers is based on the organizational information.

1 23. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein selecting less than all the plural  
2 data servers is based on the organizational information and a characteristic of data  
3 requested by the database query.

1 24. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2 retrieving search results obtained by the selected data servers;  
3 determining whether the search results are satisfactory; and  
4 selecting at least one more data server to process the database query if the  
5 search results are not satisfactory.

1 25. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein partitioning the data comprises  
2 partitioning the data into logical groups.

1 26. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising storing the information  
2 by a partitioner, wherein selecting less than all the data select is performed at least in part  
3 by the partitioner.

1 27. (New) The system of claim 11, the database controller to select less than  
2 all the plural data servers based on the partitioning information and a characteristic of  
3 data requested by the database query.

A 6  
1 28. (New) The system of claim 11, wherein the selected data servers are  
2 adapted to retrieve search results in response to the database query, and the database  
3 controller is adapted to determine whether the search results are satisfactory and to select  
4 at least one more data server to process the database query if the search results are not  
5 satisfactory.

1 29. (New) The article of claim 19, wherein the instructions when executed  
2 cause the device to receive information comprising partitioning information.

1 30. (New) The article of claim 29, wherein the instructions when executed  
2 cause the device to select less than all the plural data servers based on the partitioning  
3 information and a characteristic of data requested by the database query.

1 31. (New) The article of claim 19, wherein the instructions when executed  
2 cause the device to:

3 retrieve search results obtained by the selected data servers;  
4 determine whether the search results are satisfactory; and  
5 select at least one more data server to process the database query if the  
6 search results are not satisfactory.